

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

- Claims 6-12 and 25-31 are pending in the Application.
- Claims 6-12 and 25-31 stand rejected by the Examiner.
- Claims 6 and 25 are currently amended.

Telephonic Interview

The Applicants representative thanks the Examiner for the telephone interview held on 11/4/2005. During that interview, Applicants representative described the invention embodied in Claim 6 and discussed the cited prior art. The Examiner suggested that a clarification in Claim 6 may advance prosecution. That suggestion was accepted by Applicants representative.

Claim Rejections Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 6-8, 10, 12, 25-27, 29 and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over an article by Arlen, H. Gray entitled *TeleZoo.com Gives Boost to Telecom/IT*, 10/5/1999 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,708,161 to Tenorio et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Arlen discloses efforts by TeleZoo corporation to introduce a web site, Telezoo.com, that includes a proprietary search engine to deliver product and service comparisons. (Arlen, P2, para. P4). Arlen reports that Telezoo has established a standardized descriptive system that lets customers examine specific features of products from multiple vendors and configure a telecommunications or information technology (IT) order online. (Arlen, p. 2, para. P5). Telezoo's search engine matches products with buyer's requirements. (Arlen, p3, para. P4).

Arlen discloses a search engine that matches buyers requirements with products and strips away vendor provided "customized descriptions" from non-standard product descriptive information for the purpose of product comparisons for buyers. (Arlen p3, para. P7).

Tenorio et al. discloses, among other things such as a method for selectively indexing a database using selected fields, a global content directory (GCD) that accesses a number of seller databases concerning vast numbers of products (Col. 2, lines 5-9 and Figure 1).

Applicants have amended independent Claim 6 to further clarify that which the Applicants regard as their invention. Applicants find support for the amendment on page 8 lines 16-18 and lines 21-30.

Amended Claim 6 of the present invention recites, in relevant part;

A method comprising:

(a)...

(c) providing an interface comprising a tool, used by each product manufacturer, to add new product specification data into the database and to modify existing product specification data in the database, the interface tool requiring each manufacturer to use a same schema when entering or modifying product specification data in a particular product class, the interface further comprising an access control component which restricts any individual product manufacturer to view and edit only the product specification data corresponding to that individual product manufacturer; and

(d) in exchange for remuneration from a given manufacturer, providing that manufacturer with query access to its respective product specification data in the database to obtain the respective product specification data in a form useful in combination with a web authoring tool and charging each manufacturer desiring to have access to the database a fee for such access.

Arlen uses a search engine to match vendor products with buyers requirements, collect vendor product data, and strip out “customized descriptions” for the purpose of performing product comparisons for buyers. The method of Claim 6 recites no search engine, recites no buyers product requirements, does not strip out custom descriptions provided by vendors, and does not perform comparisons for buyers. Instead, element (c) of Claim 6 essentially recites a method step that involves a tool, used by each product manufacturer, to add new product specification data into the database and to modify existing product specification data in the database where each manufacturer is required to use the same schema when entering or modifying the product specification data in a particular product

class. Claim 6 also recites that each product manufacturer can only access its own corresponding product specification data via an access control component using the method.

Part (d) of Amended Claim 6 further recites that a manufacturer's product specification data may be queried from the database by the manufacturer and used in combination with a web authoring tool in exchange for remuneration.

Arlen does not disclose that manufactures are required to use the same schema when entering or modifying product specification data in a particular product class as recited in Claim 6. Arlen does not disclose that manufacturers can edit and view only their corresponding product specification data in the database using the interface. Arlen does not disclose that the database information may be queried by the manufacturer and provided in a form that may be used in combination with a web authoring tool. In fact, Arlen places no requirements on vendor product data at all because the method of Arlen filters product data after it acquires the web-based product data from vendors.

Applicants submit that the search engine of Arlen teaches a different method than that of Amended Claim 6. Additionally, Arlen does not disclose all elements of Amended Claim 6. Applicants further submit that Tenorio et al. does not cure the deficiency. Tenorio et al. also does not disclose that manufactures are required to use the same schema when entering or modifying product specification data in a particular product class and can edit and view only their own product specification data in the database using the interface as recited in amended Claim 6. Tenorio et al. also does not disclose that the database information may be queried by the manufacturer and provided in a form that may be used in combination with a web authoring tool.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither Arlen nor Tenorio et al., either alone or in combination, teach or suggest the invention recited in Claim 6 because all elements are not present in the references. Specifically, at least elements (c) and (d) are missing from the cited references. Since independent Claim 25 has similar limitations as in independent Claim 6, the combination of Arlen and Tenorio et al. cannot render obvious Claims 6 or 25. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of Claims 6 and 25 as these claims patentably define over the cited art.

Similarly, in as much as Claims 7-12 and 26-31 depend on Claims 6 and 25 respectively, Applicants respectfully submit that these dependent claims also patentably

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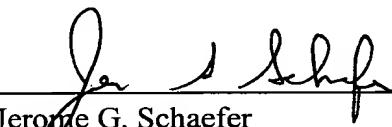
define over the cited art for the reasons provided above. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of dependent Claims 6-12 and 25-31.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, Applicants submit that the present application is in a condition for allowance upon entry of the amendments herein. Applicants earnestly solicit a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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